



OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

INFORMING SALEM COUNTY RESIDENTS



“What is a PUZZLE? A problem to be solved by ingenuity or patient effort. Freeholders are much like puzzle pieces, unique in wisdom and foresight with independent thoughts and ideals. Just like puzzle pieces, when we come together, we can solve problems, set goals, accomplish them, and create a unique picture. ”

Quote from January Re-organization Majority Speech

2016 Financial Outlook

The Board of Chosen Freeholders introduced the 2016 budget at the May 4 meeting. When the budget process started there was a \$8.4 million budget shortfall, representing 10.45% of the total budget. This shortfall is due to a loss in ratable in excess of 200 million dollars, contractual salary and wage obligations, increased pension costs coupled with an increase of almost \$500,000 in general operating expenses.

The administration needed to develop a budget that delivered the services our residents expect and that are also sustainable. A budget was presented by the County Chief Financial Officer that reflects the current economic realities requiring many departments to identify cost saving opportunities. The 2016 budget is in balance and is \$6 million less than 2012. This budget does call for an additional investment from the community of 5.6 cents in the 2016 tax rate. Most importantly the 2016 budget meets our fiduciary responsibility to use the resources you provide wisely.

Year	Amount
2012	\$86,641,068.96
2013	\$81,804,483.97 ↓
2014	\$76,329,333.35 ↓
2015	\$79,991,339.10 ↑
2016	\$80,415,358.10 ↑



“We have made many accomplishments to reduce spending, pay down debt, and achieve strong bond ratings of ‘AA.’ This allows our county to receive better interest rates, realizing cost savings. Efforts over the past four years to reduce spending, pay down old debt, and increase revenue led to this substantial improvement in the county’s financial position.”

*Julie Acton, Director
Chair of Administration*

What was done to close the shortfall?

- Smart cuts made to the budget appropriations
- Continue to reduce unnecessary spending
- Entered into new shared service agreements
- Consolidated and restructured departments
- Maximized use of grants and dedicated rider funds
- Hiring freeze of non-essential personnel
- Reduced operating budgets
- Eliminated employee health insurance opt-out incentives



“This budget provides for all essential services to the county residents and businesses, and it does so by carefully spending within our means. We understand the importance of preserving the quality of life that people who live and work here have come to expect. We also are always mindful of the homeowner’s tax burden. This two-fold commitment requires a delicate balance in decision making, especially when ratable trends in the state are slow to recover.”

*Dale Cross, Deputy Director
Chair of Public Safety*

Salem County Vo-Technical School Completes Upgrades and Expansion

The Salem County Vocational Technical Schools recently held a dedication ceremony to celebrate the completion of seven classrooms, a greenhouse for the Academy of Agricultural Sciences and a fitness center to be utilized by health and physical educational classes. The \$4 million renovation project took six months to complete and also included infrastructure upgrades to the schools electrical, HVAC, and fire alarm systems. The expansion and upgrades will allow for enrollment expansion and implementing new programs into their curriculum.



Participating in the ceremony were Assemblyman Adam Taliaferro; Freeholder Director Julie Acton, Freeholder Doug Painter, who also serves as the school district's freeholder liaison; Freeholder Lee Ware; SCVTS representatives and Board members. Students from the school's Air Force Junior ROTC program opened the ceremony with the Presentation of Colors.



"The expansion will allow the school to better serve Salem County students and accommodate additional students who are interested in attending. Educating our future leaders is a top priority and it is important for institutions to offer programs of interest to the students."

*Doug Painter, Freeholder
Chair of Education/ Employment*

Connecting Businesses to Resources for Growth

Salem County officials and economic development partners work diligently to create smart growth opportunities for business and industry. Salem County has demonstrated disciplined leadership and strong financial management, making the county the perfect choice for an entrepreneur or corporate business leader wanting to achieve business growth.



The County Partners with South Jersey Economic Development District for Growth

The South Jersey Economic Development District is an agency whose goal is to promote orderly and efficient economic development throughout its member counties. The SJEDD supports county initiatives that improve and strengthen regional economic growth and development, develops viable and creative projects that not only have a local benefit, but also have a positive impact on the overall economic environment of the area. Contact the Economic Development Director at (856) 935-7510, Ext. 8384.

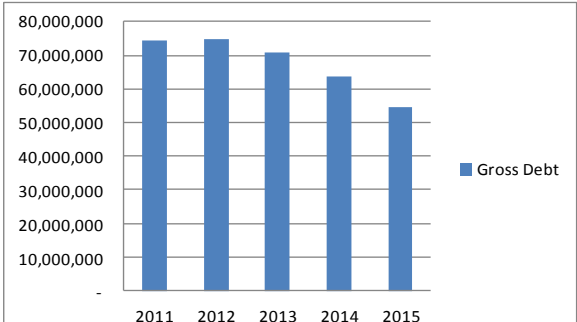


"Economic Development remains a top priority. We continue to promote the opportunities our county offers and remain encouraged by the new business projects in our county."

*Bob Vanderslice, Freeholder
Chair of Health & Human Services*

Continuing to Reduce Debt

Debt reduction has been and continues to be a priority of this administration. As the chart below shows debt has been reduced by 20 million dollars over the past four years. At a high of 74 million dollars to 54 million at the end of 2015. County government pays interest on loans like any other borrower. Excess debt and the subsequent interest payments limit governments ability to direct financial resources to vital programs. For this reason, administration will continue to reduce this burden on the taxpayers.



Veterans Corner: List of upcoming events



Memorial Day Ceremony

May 30, Noon, County Veterans Cemetery
Bring your own chair

Salem County Salutes Our Military Enlistee's Ceremony

June 1, 6:30 PM, Old Court House, Salem

Flag Interment Day

June 14, 6 PM, County Veterans Cemetery
Bring your old flags for proper disposal

Veterans Picnic

September 17, Noon-4 PM, County Fairgrounds
Reservations required. Contact: Tami at (856) 279-0393 or tedcoxangels@gmail.com

Military Service Medal Ceremony

September 22, Deadline to submit application for the Military Service Award

County Military Service Award Ceremony

November 3, 6:00 PM, SCC Davidow Theater

Residents are encouraged to attend the Veterans events.

Contact Joseph Hannagan, Director of Veterans Affairs at: (856) 339-8603

County Mosquito Control Remains Vigilant

Zika Virus has been a major topic in the media. This emerging disease is a flavivirus (related to West Nile virus, Dengue and Yellow Fever), which is spread through the bite of an infected mosquito. If you plan on travelling outside the U.S. (especially if you're pregnant, or may become pregnant), please consult <http://www.cdc.gov/travel/page/zika-travel-information> for the most current travel advisories.

Both the Salem County Mosquito Control and County Health Department remain vigilant in keeping updated on all new information regarding Zika virus. For the most current information please visit the CDC website at <http://www.cdc.gov/zika>. You may also contact the Salem County Mosquito Control, the County Health Department, or your physician.

As the weather warms, please consider that mosquito control is everyone's responsibility. Remember to eliminate the preferred habitat of the mosquito which spreads this and many other diseases by: changing water in birdbaths and wading pools at least once a week; check for trapped water in tarps used to cover boats, pools, etc.; do not allow water to accumulate in flower pots, cemetery urns, or in pet dishes for more than 2 days; destroy or dispose of unused plastic swimming pools or other containers that collect and hold water. You can find a full list of tips by visiting <http://www.salemcountynj.gov/departments/mosquito-control>.



"Protection of the public is always in the forefront of our mind, whether it is normal nuisance mosquitoes or the threat of mosquito-borne disease. Residents are encouraged to learn more about Zika Virus and other vector-borne diseases."

*Ben Laury, Freeholder
Chair of Public Works*

June 3-5: Discover Music Weekend

- Appel Farm Music & Wine Festival – includes a Kids Zone play area
appelfarm.org
- Jersey Cycling Tour
- Explore our Farm Markets
- Pennsville Historical Society's A Day at the Farm
pvhistorical.njcool.net
- Cowtown Rodeo cowtownrodeo.com



June 10-12: Discover American Heritage Weekend

- Nanticoke Lenape Powwow
nanticoke-lenape.info/powwow.htm
- 7 Steps of Freedom– Come out and enjoy the free audio self-guided tour celebrating the history of the Underground Railroad in Salem County
7stepstofreedom.wordpress.com
- Cowtown Rodeo cowtownrodeo.com

August 12-14: Discover Country Living Weekend

- Salem County Fair salemcountyfair.com
- Cowtown Rodeo cowtownrodeo.com
- Oakwood Theater oakwoodsummertheatre.com

For upcoming fun filled themed weekends, check out the next edition of "Open to the Public." Contact Kathleen Mills, Director of Economic Development/ Cultural Affairs and Tourism at (856) 935-7510, Ext. 8384 or the website VisitSalemCountyNJ.com for full information on these events and other activities in Salem County.

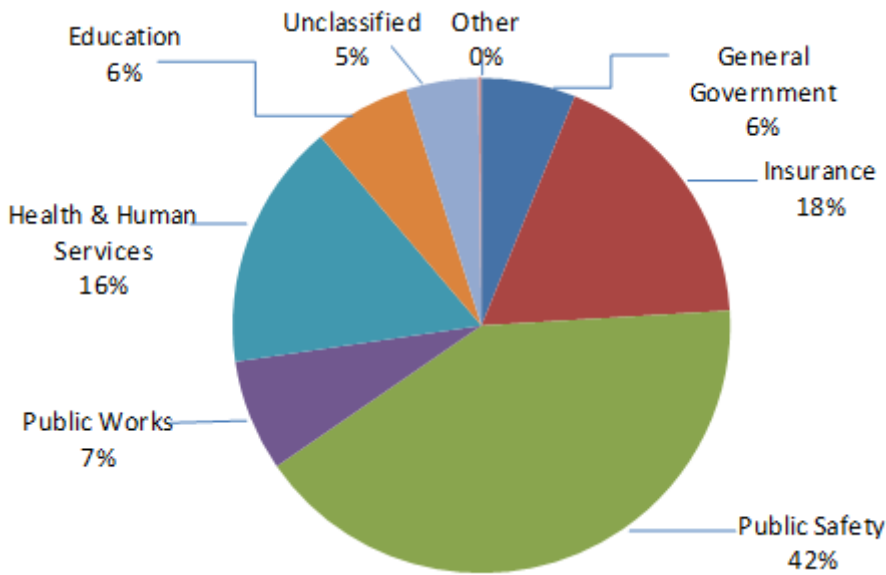


"Salem County offers fabulous opportunities to explore new experiences for residents and visitors alike. Salem County Weekends is a great way to partner with and promote our events."

*Lee Ware, Freeholder
Chair of Agricultural, Transportation*

How Are Your County Tax Dollars Spent?

Have you ever wondered what services you receive for the county tax dollars you pay? We continue to support the essential services you rely upon. We understand public safety, public health, and human services are a priority for citizens, these two areas combined are 58% of the county budget.



2016 SALEM COUNTY OPERATING GOALS

- 1) Protect our essential services
- 2) Negotiate realistic contracts that reflect current economic realities
- 3) Not spend beyond our means
- 4) Protect taxpayers assets and spend your tax dollars in a responsible manner

* All budgetary information provided by the Treasurer's Office

PUBLIC SAFETY— 42%

911 Center
Alternative Youth Shelter
Correctional Facility
Emergency Services
Fire Marshall
Fire School
Juvenile Detention/ Domestic Relations Court
Medical Examiner
Prosecutor's Office
Sheriff's Office

HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES— 16%

Commission on Women
Communicable Disease
County Welfare Board
DYFS
Environmental
Maintenance of Patients in State Institutions
Mental Health
Nursing
Office on Aging & Disabled/ Transportation
Preparedness
Special Child Health
Substance Abuse Treatment
War Veterans Cemetery

PUBLIC WORKS — 7%

Facilities Management
Mosquito Control
Roads, Bridges, Culverts
Vehicle Maintenance

EDUCATION — 6%

County Extension
County Superintendent of Schools
Reimb. for Residents Attending Out of County
2 yr. College
Salem Community College
Salem County Vo-Tech
Special Services School District

UNCLASSIFIED — 5%

County Transportation
Community Bus Service
Utilities
Veterans Service

OTHER — 0%

Code Enforcement— Weights & Measure
Land Use
Parks

GENERAL GOVERNMENT—6%

Adjutor's Office
Administrative & Executive
Agricultural
Auditor
Board of Elections
Board of Taxation
Clerk of the Board
County Clerk
County Surrogate
Cultural Heritage/ Tourism
Economic Development
Engineer
Grant Management
HR/ Payroll
Labor Counsel
Purchasing
Special Counsel
Treasurer's Office

INSURANCE—18%

General Liability Insurance
Health Insurance
Self Insurance
Workman's Comp

CONTACT US

We Want to Hear From You!

The Administrative Offices have moved!

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110 Fifth Street, Suite 400
Salem, NJ 08079

Freeholders@salemcountynj.gov

PH: (856) 935-7510, Ext. 8203

FAX: (856) 935-9102



Attend Board of Chosen Freeholders Summer Meetings

June 1 (4 PM-Salem)
June 15 (4 PM-Salem)

July 20 (4 PM-Upper Pittsgrove)
August 3 (4 PM-Alloway)

August 17 (4 PM-Salem)
September 7 (7 PM Salem)

Visit our website for complete list of meeting information: www.salemcountynj.gov/freeholders/



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Facebook

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